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LETTER DATED 31 MARCH 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AZERBAIJANI REPUBLIC ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to address you on instructions from the President of the Azerbaijani Republic, Mr. A. Elchibey.

In recent days Armenian armed forces have carried out a large-scale attack on the Kelbadjar district of Azerbaijan with a view to capturing the whole frontier zone of the Azerbaijani Republic bordering on Nagorny Karabakh.

During the attack, the Armenian side used all kinds of heavy weapons, armoured vehicles and aircraft. Dozens of villages have been destroyed and hundreds of peaceful inhabitants, including women and children, have been killed.

Armenia's plans in the region have thus been revealed - it is attempting the military annexation of almost 20 per cent of the territory of independent Azerbaijan. Until now, the world community has been misled by demagogic arguments about "the struggle of the Armenians of Nagorny Karabakh for national self-determination". The events of recent days have finally unmasked the Armenian expansionists.

At this difficult time for our country, I appeal to you to use all the authority of the United Nations and your own enormous personal authority to bring about an immediate cease-fire in the region. There is still a possibility of averting the deaths of thousands of people. A delay will lead to such a tragic development of the situation that its consequences for stability in the region cannot be predicted.

I would request you to circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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